B.A.S.E

P.O. Box 33
Bloomington, Il. 61701

AUGUST, 1987

VOL: 6 ISSUE 8

Meeting Location: Bloomington Public Library
205 E. Olive St., Bloomington, Il.
Regular Schedule: 2nd Thursday of every month

Next Meeting: AUGUST 13,1987, Thursday Time 7-9 p.m.

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B.A.S.E. maintains Public Domain Libraries for members in good standing.

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All original B.A.S.E. material in this newsletter is in the public domain and user group use as long as club and author are credited. All statements in the newsletter are the opinions of the authors and are not necessarily the opinions of the officers or club.

Commercial advertizing will be accepted with prepaid copy. Rates are $20.00 full page, $10.00 half page, $5.00 quarter page, and business cards $2.50.

Membership advertizing will be accepted for free.

Newsletter articles must be submitted to the editor by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Articles received after the 25th will be held for the following newsletter. Articles must be submitted on a disk using Atariwriter or Atariwriter Plus or First Word. Printed articles will receive a free public domain disk of their choice for contributing to the newsletter. You may receive assistance with preparing your article by calling me at 452-1334 evenings or 827-4909 at work.

This newsletter is created with an ATARI 1040ST, FIRST WORD and printed on a STAR NX-10 printer.

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Disk of the Month:	Brian Green	662-4077
Newsletter library:	Brian Green	662-4077

1987 Meeting Schedule

B.A.S.E. will end its' traditional 1st Thursday meeting in 1987. We will move to the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of October. We will meet on the third Thursday in October.

August----13-Thursday
September-10-Thursday
October---15-Thursday***
November--12-Thursday
December--10-Thursday

We must keep magnetically operated devices away from the disk drives. This includes telephones, monitors, modems, and, of couse, magnets.

At this point we should discuss the way the data is placed on the disk. The disk is divided into sectors and tracks. The sectors are pie-shaped areas. The tracks are concentric circles on which the head travels; it can jump from track to track to access data. The tracks and sectors are encoded on the disk when you FORMAT it. The sector it is on at any given time is determined either by reading a signal on the disk for track zero and counting around (soft sectored), or by reading a hardware device such as a light beam and detector indicating the tiny hole just off center on the disk hub and counting around (hard sectored). Why should you care about this? The positioning of the head will obviously be quite critical. In order to access a specific track, it must move a precise distance. If you want to write disks only YOU can read, treat your drives roughly. Soon the positioning accuracy will be off and another drive will not be able to find your tracks! Re-alignment takes a special instrument and should be done by a reputable repair shop. You should ALWAYS keep a back-up disk of any files you do not want to lose. Disks do wear out!

There are commercial products on the market such as Diskette Drive Head Cleaning Kit which removes debris (dust, dirt, smoke and oxide particles from the read/write heads in 30 seconds. The kit provides for 15 cleanings. (CompuCentre has one for $19.95 while Altair Electronics did not have one in stock at time of this writing.)

This will give you an opportunity to buy a kit together with some of your computer-friends and share the cost.

The decision is yours; for my money I think that prevention is still better than a cure so I will buy a kit!

August Bits and Pieces
by Brian Green

Due to several repeated attempts to crash my BBS, and several users unwilling to give valid information at logon time for user verification, the Green Acres BBS is permanently closed.

However, there is still one good BBS left in Bloomington/Normal to call. Prairie BBS now has INFO-MAT magazine and ZIP-BEEP in on-line sections for users to access. Give Prairie a call at 309-662-6941.

INFO-MAT contains information about the computer industry, hardware, and software releases. INFO-MAT is published weekly. ZIP-BEEP is a monthly humor magazine. The Sysop on Prairie informs me that several enhancements are being planned to continue to make this the best BBS in B/N.

An item from the June 1987 newsletter from JACE (Jacksonville Atari Computer Enthusiasts) reports that Atari will market a 520ST-FM. This will be a 520ST configured as a 1040ST. The 520ST-FM is designed to compete with the Amiga 500.

The July 14th issue of INFO-MAT reported that Mindscape, Inc. will publish home computer versions of the Atari arcade video games. Titles mentioned

are Paperboy, Gauntlet, and Road Runner.

The July 28th issue of INFO-MAT reported that there is new CAD software for the Atari ST machines. Migraph, Inc. has 2D and 3D engineering packages with extensive editting and display options now available.

Floppy Drive Upkeep
by Dave Beale

Reprinted from RUGAC (Riverside User's Group for Atari Computers) July/August 1987 newsletter

Floppy disks are quite rugged devices. They operate much like a tape recorder. The head, the device which 'writes' on the floppy media, is placed against the ferric oxide covered disk (in the cover you see and handle), and the disk is rotated, usually at 300 RPM. The 'writing' is done mangetically with a change in field polarity (say from North to South) indicating a data bit. The actual data is encoded to minimize the changes in polarity and therefore maximize the amount of data per length of track.

We must keep dust and debris on the disk surface to a minimum, so the head maintains best contact with the disk at minimum wear. Always store you disks in a closed container to keep dust buildup to a minimum. Never touch the disk 'media' surface (the oxide coated surface is the 'media' surface) as the oils in your skin will contaminate it. The heads of a floppy drive may be cleaned once or twice a year. The safest way is to use the cleaning disks, often available free in boxes of diskettes as a promotional deal.

Presidents Report
by Richard L. Raper

Well it's August and back to school for many of our children and for some of our members. School time usually means that the computers come back out of the closet. Have you put yours up for storage this summer? I didn't put mine up but when I moved to Danville I didn't even have a table to put one on. While the house is being remodeled there is too much dust around. As I get closer to painting it's time to get my system back into operation. Ron brought my 520 down this weekend so I could crank out the newsletter.

News about ATARI arrived in July announcing the opening of a new CENTRAL MIDWEST REGIONAL OFFICE for dealers. I am pleased to welcome Bill Griffin to the area.

Please welcome Harlow Bower, Cerro Gordo and J. Nashland, Mt. Zion as new members of B.A.S.E. I missed them last month when I used the old mail list for June.

Anyone wanting to reach me in Danville can write to 1134 Wilkin, Danville, Il. 61832 or call me at 217-446-8035. Ron will be closing the store on Sat. Aug. 15 since he is returning to school the 23rd.

Officer nominations are about to begin. See me about any positions you may be interested in. I can tell you that it is a lot of fun to be President of a user group and it doesn't take that much work. Jump in and volunteer.

August 8-bit Disk Of The Month
by Brian Green

The August 8-bit disk of the month features the following programs:

Side 1

GAMBLER.BAS - Be the first to build your bankroll to $1000. This game was downloaded from PeopleLink.

FIREWORK.BAS-This graphic/music demo features classical music by Handel. The graphics are weak, the music is very good. This was downloaded from GEnie.

AXELF.BAS - This is a neat music demo of the theme from "Beverly Hills Cop". This was downloaded from GEnie.

PROTOUR.BAS - This is a good strategical golf simulation for 1-4 players. This was downloaded from GEnie.

Side 2

Side 2 of the disk are archive utility programs downloaded GEnie. This side of the disk should be booted with disabled BASIC.

ARCX12.COM - This is the de-archive program for the 8-bit computers. Load the program thru DOS Option L.

ARC12.ARC - This is an archived file containing:

READ.ME - This is an info file on changes in the 1.2 version of the program.

ARC8.TXT - This is the doc file for using ARC12.COM.

ARC12.COM - This is the archive program for the 8-bit machines. Load the program thru DOS Option L.

Use ARCX12.COM to process the ARC12.ARC file.